Keeping in Touch

News and notes from
the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

February 1993

Rev. Elder Jean White, left, holds a banner with one of the youths at General Conference in 1991.

Photo by Mr. William Tom

Celebration and Change for Rev. Elder Jean White

Rev. Elder Jean White, who just finished celebrating 18 years of pastoring MCC London, England, announced that she will not seek re-election as elder when her term expires this year.

"I have served 14 years in the capacity of World Church Extension Elder, and feel that now is the right time for me to stand down, and spend more time in my own church, although of course I shall have ongoing interest and work with WCE in any way that I can," she said. Rev. White emphasized that she and her church will continue their support of MCC churches in Nigeria.

She noted that her decision was based on a prayerful commitment to self-care. "Last year was a very heavy one for me travelwise. I visited the United States eight times as well as travelled to four other countries to attend conferences. I was away a total of 19 weeks. This has had a toll on my health...and it certainly is not the best recipe for relationships," she explained.

Rev. Elder Troy Perry, UFMCC founder and moderator, expressed deep appreciation for Rev. White's years of service as elder. "Jean has made immeasurable contributions to the Fellowship, especially through her international vision and efforts to plant MCC churches around the globe," he said. "I will miss serving with her on the Board of Elders, but I trust that God will continue to bless UFMCC through her."

Rev. White presided over a

(see Rev. Elder White, page 4)

Speakers Named for General Conference

Latin American lesbian activist Rebeca Sevilla of Lima, Peru, Co-Secretary General of the International Lesbian and Gay Association, heads the list of dynamic speakers who will address General Conference XVI.

Other major speakers at the conference, which will be held July 18-25 in Phoenix, AZ, include:

▼ Dr. Marie Fortune, expert on sexual ethics in the church and author of *Is Nothing Sacred?*

▼ Ms. Christie Hefner, president and chief executive officer of Playboy Enterprises, Inc. and daughter of Mr. Hugh Hefner. She will speak on "Sexual Ethics in the Age of AIDS" at the HIV/AIDS Luncheon Friday, July 23.

▼ Mr. James Bell, executive director of Interfaith Impact for Justice and Peace, an organization based in Washington, DC, to provide the collective voice of the religious community on U.S. national public policy issues. His appearances will include a speech on Friday, July 23, at the Ecumenical Breakfast, a new conference event this year.

▼ Dr. Alexandra Levine, professor of medicine and chief of hematology at the University of Southern California School of Medicine and a renowned HIV/AIDS researcher. She will present an HIV/AIDS medical update on Saturday, July 24. Her medical update at the 1991 conference was received with uniform enthusiasm.

▼ Rev. Sylvanus Maduka, Extension Coordinator for Nigeria, and Ms. Caroline Blanco, pastoral leader of Centre de l'Esprit Liberateur MCC in Paris, France. They will preach at the World Church Extension worship service Wednesday, July 21. Licensed in 1974, Rev. Maduka was one of the first clergy of color in UFMCC. The only other time he attended General Conference was in 1976.

Also returning to this General Conference will be Ms. Alison Arngrim, an AIDS activist best known for her portrayal of Nellie Oleson on the long-running television series "Little House on the Prairie." Ms. Arngrim will do two workshops on "Humor and Healing" and safer sex education.

A new feature of General Conference this year will be a Youth Assembly, which will be held July 18 before the conference opens.

U.S. registrations for the entire conference must be postmarked on or before March 1 to receive the early registration discount fee of $193. Early registrations from outside the U.S. ($130) or for the final weekend only ($100) must be postmarked on or before June 15.

For more information about General Conference, contact UFMCC, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd. #304, Los Angeles, CA 90029; (213) 464-5100. ❐

UFMCC Joins 1993 March on Washington

UFMCC will sponsor three major activities during the March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation.

The activities, set for Saturday, April 24, and Sunday, April 25, are: "The Wedding," a massive relationship blessing and demonstration; a reception honoring U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein; and a communion service.

"I encourage as many MCCers as possible to attend the March on Washington so that we can claim our rights as lesbian, gay and bisexual people as a new era dawns under President Clinton," said Rev. Elder Troy Perry, UFMCC founder and moderator.

"The Wedding"

"The Wedding," a non-sectarian ceremony of commitment, will be conducted by Rev. Perry as a celebration of the love of lesbian, gay and bisexual couples and as a demonstration for the rights of such couples.

All lesbian, gay and bi couples are invited to participate in "The Wedding" at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 24.

Couples can receive a certificate commemorating their participation in "The Wedding" by pre-registering and sending $10 to "The Wedding," UFMCC, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., #304, Los Angeles, CA 90029.

Rev. Perry is conducting a nationwide search for the longest-term lesbian, gay and bisexual couple to introduce at "The Wedding." UFMCC will provide each of the three couples with two free round

trip airline tickets to Washington, DC, to attend the ceremony. All couples who believe their relationship may have lasted longer than any other in the United States are invited to write to Rev. Perry at the above address.

Reception for Senator Feinstein

U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein of California and other invited political guests will be honored at a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, April 24, at MCC Washington, DC.

The reception will be a fundraiser for UFMCC AIDS Ministries and MCC-DC.

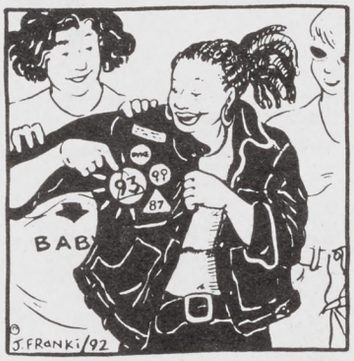
The location of the reception will be MCC-DC's new building, which was just completed in December 1992. "The church is absolutely so beautiful, so bold, so gorgeous that I can't say enough about it," Rev. Perry said.

Communion Service

UFMCC will conduct a communion service at 8:30 a.m. Sunday, April 25, at the Lincoln Memorial. Members of the Board of Elders will serve as communion celebrants.

Rev. Perry urges members of MCC churches from throughout the United States to attend the communion service to prepare to march for our rights. From the Lincoln Memorial, the UFMCC contingent will march together as a group in the March on Washington. ❐

Washington DC
APRIL 25, 1993



DON'T MISS THIS ONE!

UFMCC Church Services, now has available

"44 Steps Up Off The Plateau"

By Lyle Schaller

Schaller's latest book! First edition, 1993!

Priced at $9.00 each

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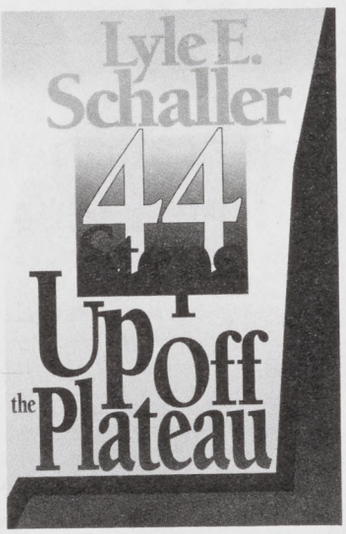
(CA. Residents include .0825% Tax)

*Actual cost of shipping will be charged for orders not pre-paid plus a $2.00 handling fee will be added to the bill.

Please write or call: Rev. Ro Halford, Church Services Coordinator, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., #304, Los Angeles, CA 90029; (213) 464-5100.



Keeping in Touch is a monthly publication of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. We are a church of the lesbian and gay community, open to all. Our mission is to call people to new life through the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ, confront injustice through Christian social action, and create a community of healing and reconciliation.

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Rev. Kittredge Cherry, Editor

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Ms. Nancy Fackrell, Typesetting

Around The Fellowship

Praises

King of Peace MCC, St. Petersburg, FL, recently moved into its new facility, a 700-seat theater that the church renovated.

Rev. Elder Troy Perry attended the inauguration of U.S. President **Bill Clinton** Jan. 20 in Washington, DC, at the invitation of the Presidential Inaugural Committee.

The Board of County Commissioners in Broward County, FL, declared Dec. 2 "**Sergio Ramos** Day" to honor the AIDS Ministry of Mr. Ramos, a deacon at **Church of the Holy Spirit MCC**, Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

UFMCC is mentioned in two recent books: *Lesbian and Gay Marriage*, edited by Suzanne Sherman, which includes a profile of **Rev. Dee Dale**, pastor of **MCC Louisville**, KY, and *Heartlands: A Gay Man's Odyssey Across America* by Darrell Yates Rist, which describes **MCC Las Vegas**, NV.

First MCC of Atlanta, GA, and some of its members appeared on the U.S. national television program "Dateline," scheduled to air Jan. 26.

Rev. Bob Darst, pastor of **New Life MCC**, Charlotte, NC, was invited to be a speaker at World Peace Day Jan. 30, sponsored by Mecklenburg County-wide Ministerial Association.

Eighteen people from 10 MCC churches helped build facilities for MCC churches in the Dominican Republic Nov. 21-30 through **World Community Builders**, a cross cultural work camp program directed by **Rev. Stephen Fund**.

Prayers

Rev. Ron Jesser, pastor of **Christ Chapel MCC**, Santa Ana, CA, and his lover, **Mr. Mitch Samuels**, were both hospitalized in mid-January with pneumonia.

Rev. Dee Dale, pastor of **MCC Louisville**, KY, is recovering well from emergency gall bladder surgery Dec. 19.

Rev. Margaret Simpson, pastor of **All God's Children MCC**, Birmingham, England, requests prayers for health concerns.

Top 20 Tithes - Dec. 1992

1.	Church/Holy Spirit MCC, Ft. Lauderdale, FL	US $	4,460.42
2.	Cathedral of Hope MCC, Dallas, TX		4,264.63
3.	MCC Washington, Washington, DC		2,878.28
4.	MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, TX		2,433.13
5.	MCC Long Beach, Long Beach, CA		2,085.53
6.	MCC San Francisco, San Francisco, CA		1,916.09
7.	MCC Toronto, Ontario, Canada	CAN $	1,889.24
8.	MCC Los Angeles, Culver City, CA		1,838.60
9.	King of Peace MCC, St. Petersburg, FL		1,714.40
10.	St. Luke's MCC, Jacksonville, FL		1,180.69
11.	Church of the Trinity MCC, Sarasota, FL		1,127.29
12.	MCC New York, New York, NY		1,067.39
13.	Church of Our Savior MCC, Boca Raton, FL		1,000.40
14.	Agape' MCC, Ft. Worth, TX		962.78
15.	MCC Key West, Key West, FL		960.59
16.	Harvest MCC, Denton, TX		936.70
17.	MCC San Jose, San Jose, CA		756.26
18.	All God's Children MCC, Minneapolis, MN		752.59
19.	MCC Albuquerque, Albuquerque, NM		710.04
20.	First MCC of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA		698.44

{These figures reflect the 10 percent of each local church's monthly income that is reported to Fellowship headquarters.}

In Memory

Rev. David Presley

Rev. David Presley died Jan. 11 of AIDS-related complications. He was 39. He served as student clergy at Agape MCC in Ft. Worth and was licensed as UFMCC clergy in 1987. He pastored MCC Wichita Falls, TX, from 1987-90. Since August 1990, he has served as clergy on staff at Trinity MCC, Arlington, TX. A memorial service was held Jan. 14, with Rev. Jo Crisco officiating. Rev. Presley was buried beside his spouse, Mr. Larry Boyd, who died a year ago.

Mr. Alan Robertson

Mr. Alan Robertson, pastoral leader of MCC of the Hi Desert, Lancaster, CA, died Dec. 21 of pneumonia. He had been struggling with AIDS-related health complications for more than a year. A memorial service was held Dec. 27 at MCC of the Hi Desert. Condolences or gifts may be sent to the church at P.O. Box 900132, Palmdale, CA 93590.

Transitions

Rev. Ken Caton was elected pastor of **First MCC of Kansas** in Wichita. He has been pastoring **MCC Las Vegas**, NV.

Rev. Skip Webber was elected pastor of **MCC of Lake Charles**, LA, effective Feb. 1. She has been on staff at **Vieux Carre' MCC**, New Orleans, LA.

Pax Christi MCC, Southampton, England, welcomes back **Rev. Ian Westby** as pastor.

Student clergy **Helene Loper** was installed as pastoral leader of **MCC Mobile**, AL, Dec. 6.

Rev. Jim Richards, transfer clergy, was installed recently as pastor of **MCC Knoxville**, TN.

Rev. Lew Broyles, who concluded his pastoral service Dec. 31 at **Agape MCC** in Ft. Worth, TX, has accepted a position with AIDS Research Associates in Milwaukee, WI.

Top 20 Per Capita - Dec. 1992

1.	Maranatha Fellowship MCC, Houston, TX	US $	41.66
2.	Angel of Hope MCC, Green Bay, WI		40.39
3.	New Life MCC, Berkeley, CA		38.79
4.	MCC of the Central Coast, Grover Beach, CA		34.82
5.	Calvary MCC, Redwood City, CA		28.40
6.	MCC Silverlake, Los Angeles, CA		27.30
7.	Harvest MCC, Denton, TX		25.05
8.	MCC of the Lower Mainland, Maple Ridge	CAN $	23.57
9.	MCC Albuquerque, Albuquerque, NM		22.83
10.	Church With A Vision, Longview, TX		22.66
11.	Ke Anuenue O Ke Aloha MCC, Honolulu, HI		22.05
12.	Open Arms MCC, Rochester, NY		21.80
13.	Faith Eternal MCC, Springfield, IL		19.72
14.	MCC Hickory, Hickory, AL		19.11
15.	St. Francis & St. Clare MCC, Sioux Falls, SD		18.92
16.	Christ the Redeemer MCC, Evanston, IL		18.68
17.	MCC Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany	DM	18.65
18.	MCC New York, New York City, NY		18.37
19.	MCC San Jose, San Jose, CA		17.63
20.	Open Door MCC, Boyds, MD		17.56

{These figures reflect average individual weekly offerings to the local church.}

WHAT A FELLOWSHIP Jean Gralley

Ft. Lauderdale Sets Record

Church of the Holy Spirit MCC, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, held UFMCC's largest Christmas Eve service this year with a congregation of 2,651.

"It was probably the most innovative service in any Christian church I've ever been to," said Mr. Gus Kein, associate of pastoral care at Church of the Holy Spirit MCC.

The altar did not appear until communion time, when it rose on a platform from the stage. After communion, the platform was lowered and rose again — this time with a Nativity scene including live goats, sheep, and a donkey. "The service concluded with the most brilliant rendition of 'The Hallelujah Chorus' and most spectacular laser light show I'd ever seen," said Mr. Kein.

The massive service was held in the Broward County Performing Arts Center, which will also be the site of the second "Celebrate Our Freedom" evangelism rally with Rev. Elder Troy Perry, UFMCC founder and moderator. The rally is scheduled for May 29, 1993. ❐

Orientation Rescheduled

Samaritan College's Orientation to MCC Pastoring was rescheduled due to numerous calendar year conflicts with other educational institutions and district conferences for Track II students.

The new schedule is as follows: Track II classes begin Monday, May 31, and end Saturday, June 12. Track I, Section 2 classes begin Monday, June 14, and end Saturday, June 26. Track I, Section 1 classes begin Monday, June 28 and end Saturday, July 10.

Orientation will be held at American University in Washington, DC. ❐

Rev. Elder White

(continued from page 1)

month-long celebration at MCC London in October and November marking 20 years in UFMCC for MCC London. It was also Rev. White's 18th anniversary as pastor there.

Rev. Delores Berry of UFMCC Evangelistic Ministries came from the United States to sing at a concert on the Friday night, Saturday night was 'party night', and Sunday's two services were a time of renewal with Rev. Berry preaching and MCC London's Women's Harmony Group blessing the congregation with their music.

The following weekend the MCC London congregation joined the European North Sea District Conference in Hamburg, Germany, where they were able to celebrate even more as they met with people from nine countries, and recalled the time when they were the only MCC church in Europe.

Final jubilations were held the following weekend when a large auditorium was rented and Rev. Perry spoke. He and Rev. White recalled his first visit to London in 1972, and the subsequent growth of the European churches.

Members of MCC London are looking forward to even greater growth during the next 20 years. Their priorities include a bigger building with greater disabled access than what they have now, and continued support of World Church Extension, especially the Nigerian Clinic which is close to their hearts. They intend to continue to preach the liberating love of Christ in as many places as they can, and they look forward to seeing many people from other European countries coming to learn about UFMCC as they have done in the past. ❐

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BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS

"Church and Clergy Tax Guide, 1993 Edition" is available now for $14.95 plus postage and tax from Christian Ministry Resources, P.O. Box 2301, Matthews, NC 28106.

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POSITIONS AVAILABLE

MCC Albuquerque, NM is seeking a full-time senior pastor. Please send inquiries to Pastoral Search Committee, 6001-0 Lomas NE, Box 101, Albuquerque, NM 87110.

MCC Portland is seeking a full-time salaried pastor. Candidate packets will be mailed in March. Send inquiries to: Pastoral Search, P.O. Box 1765, Portland, OR 97207.

MCC Las Vegas, NV, is seeking a full-time senior pastor. Please write to: Board of Directors, MCC Las Vegas, 1119 S. Main, Las Vegas, NV 89109.

Pikes Peak MCC, Colorado Springs, CO is seeking a full-time pastor beginning Summer 1993. Please send a resume and letter of intent to PPMCC Pastoral Search Committee, c/o Jan Michel, P.O. Box 6591, Colo Springs, CO 80934-6591.